

SCIENCES & TECHNOLOGICAL & INNOVATIONS BULLETIN



NNATIONAL **S**SCIENTIFIC **C**COUNCIL

UNIVERSITE OFFICIELLE DE MBUJIMAYI

**President Félix
TSHISEKEDI
inaugurates the Official
University of
Mbuji-Mayi**

Marie-Thérèse Sombo participates in the
69th IAEA Conference in Vienna

NSC President Prof. MPIANA TSHIMANKINDA
Pius elected Member of TWAS

The NSC holds its 58th ordinary session

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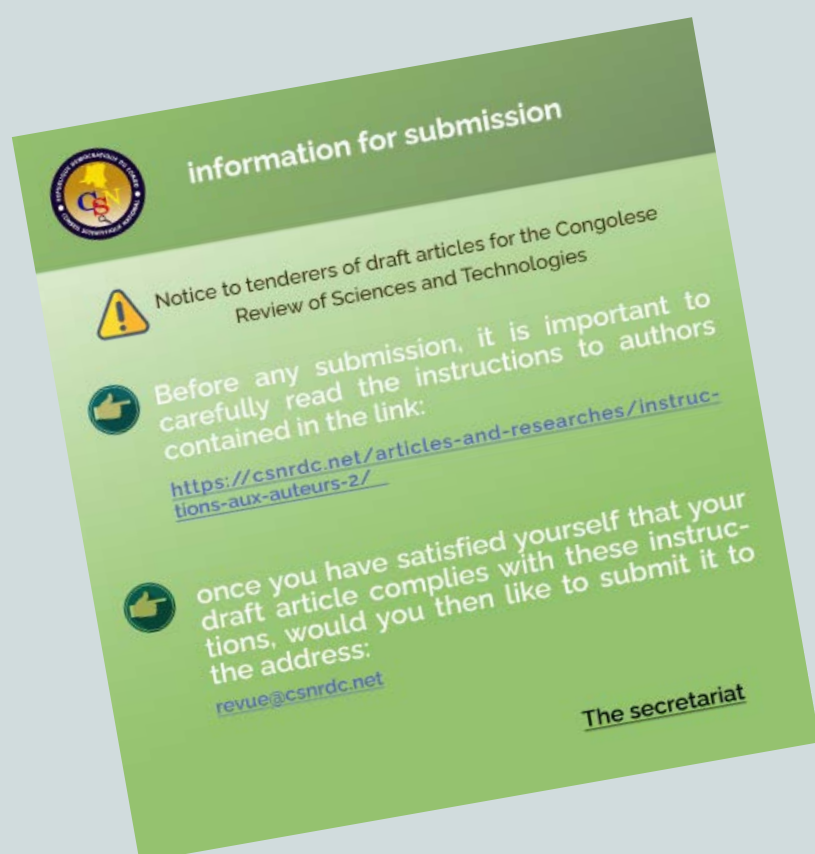
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The ESURSI Synergy



Synergy has always been a driving force. When separate components come together for a common purpose, a new and superior property emerges, creating a dynamic where the momentum of one fuels the growth of the other. Synergy becomes a point of convergence whose released energy is an inexhaustible source of innovation and creativity that could not have existed in isolation. It is precisely in this context that the Ministry of Higher and University Education has merged with the Ministry of Scientific Research and Technological Innovation to form a single ministry: ESURSI (Higher Education, University, Scientific Research and Innovation). This merger is much more than a simple administrative reorganization; it is a strategic and visionary act that positions the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) on the path to endogenous and sustainable development, based on the conviction that a deep synergy between training and research is the engine of all meaningful progress.

The evolution of higher education and scientific research along separate paths has limited the full resonance between academic knowledge and the country's immediate innovation needs. The creation of ESURSI contributes precisely to optimizing this untapped potential and ensuring that training and discovery are always in perfect resonance with societal realities and the nation's grand ambitions.

This synergy is most clearly reflected in the "DRC Digital Nation 2030" plan of the President of the Republic and Head of State, Félix Antoine TSHISEKEDI TSHILOMBO. At the 80th United Nations General Assembly, His Excellency the President of the Republic reaffirmed his vision of making the DRC a "prosperous digital nation and a technological hub at the heart of Africa by 2030." This colossal ambition, supported by the mobilization of US\$1 billion from the public treasury over 2026-2030, embodies the paradigm shift aimed at fully capturing the dividends of digital technology. The DRC is thus positioning itself, with its rare and critical

minerals, as a catalyst for investment and a provider of solutions to the major challenges of our time. The digital plan is based on four pillars, including the overhaul of curricula and the launch of a national program of digital professions for young people and women, a direct responsibility of ESURSI to equip young people with the necessary skills.

The merger of these two ministries under the name ESURSI undoubtedly creates a unified framework where education and research are closely linked, enabling crucial reforms. This transformation is reflected in the restructuring of doctoral training, with the suspension of the DEA/DES system, a major step towards aligning our postgraduate programs with international standards of excellence. There is a strong focus on the digital shift, illustrated by the launch of platforms such as Congo Tech PAMOJA, which are working to democratize Artificial Intelligence in the DRC. The announcement of the upcoming finalization of the National Artificial Intelligence Strategy and the creation of an AI Academy are directly in line with ESURSI's mission to train the new generation of talent needed to operationalize this national strategy.

This synergy is also essential for optimizing resources and financial autonomy. ESURSI is firmly focused on consolidating the potential of the research sub-sector. This ambition requires a commitment to securing resources for research institutions and modernizing scientific tools. The strategy is clear: to establish sound financial sustainability by promoting the diversification of funding sources and making it compulsory for researchers to receive training in writing bankable projects. These measures aim to transform the centers into autonomous and efficient entities capable of translating theory into practical application.

Above all, this alliance propels the DRC

onto the global strategic stage. The recent participation of the Minister of ESURSI, Her Excellency Marie-Thérèse SOMBO AYANNE SAFI MUKUNA, in the 69th IAEA Conference in Vienna reaffirmed the country's commitment to civil nuclear power as a lever for energy progress, driven by an inclusive vision promoting gender equality in scientific and technical fields (STEM). Finally, major events such as the closing of the 2024-2025 academic year in Kikwit demonstrate the Ministry's desire to establish itself throughout the country for harmonious development.

In short, the creation of this single Ministry is not just a simple structural reform. It is a commitment to a vision where higher education, research, and innovation work hand in hand to build the future. Embracing synergy means recognizing that the future is not built with juxtaposed forces, but with merged and intentional forces. It is the path by which efficiency leads to power, and power to true collective development. It is the recognition that the knowledge and creativity of Congolese youth and researchers are the DRC's greatest assets in positioning itself as a leader in development in Central Africa and the world, thus realizing the vision of a technology hub in 2030.

Professor Pius MPIANA TSHIMANKINDA
NSC President,



Activities of the President of the Republic

President Félix TSHISEKEDI inaugurates the Official University of Mbuji-Mayi

The President of the Republic, Félix Antoine TSHISEKEDI TSHILOMBO, inaugurated the new campus of the Official University of Mbuji-Mayi (UOM) located in the Kansele district, in the municipality of Muya, in the capital of the province of Kasai-Oriental, on October 6, 2025.

This university complex consists of three imposing two-story buildings constructed with funds from the central government. The first building houses 16 modern lecture halls, each with a capacity of 200 seats. The second building consists of two 400-seat amphitheatres, and the third is a residential building for students with 154 shared rooms.

In addition to the outdoor facilities, the new UOM campus also includes a modern library, a fully equipped computer room, a staff room, and other public spaces for teachers and students.

Launched on April 19, 2022, the construction of this modern university took 36 months and responds to the lack of university infrastructure and a demand from UOM students, who were previously forced to use the city's primary school classrooms.

In his speech, the governor of Kasai-Oriental expressed his gratitude to the

Head of State for the special attention given to his province. The city of Mbuji-Mayi is undergoing a transformation following numerous public works projects, particularly those related to roads.

Speaking on behalf of the students, the president of the student union recalled the difficult conditions of schooling before the construction of this campus. "Today's event will forever remain historic in several ways. First, it is the first time since the colonial era that an ultra-modern university campus has been built in the space of three years," said the student.

« We have seen you inaugurate renovated or modernized buildings; here, you have



Symbolic ribbon cutting for the opening of the UOM university campus by His Excellency President Felix Antoine TSHISEKEDI TSHILOMBO



Visit to the UOM computer room by His Excellency President Felix Antoine TSHISEKEDI

of dignity," he said. The rector of UOM detailed the challenges of maintaining this jewel. A company specializing in maintenance and another in security have been selected to maintain cleanliness and security within UOM.

As for the Minister of Higher Education, Universities, Scientific Research, and Innovation, she announced a series of inaugurations of new infrastructure across the country. Kananga and Bunia also have university facilities awaiting inauguration.

Professor Marie-Thérèse Sombo also paid tribute to the Head of State's vision. "These beautiful facilities, which inspire our admiration, undoubtedly reflect modernity, but also openness to new hope for a bright future for Congolese youth," she said.

The President of the Republic toured the



SE Marie-Thérèse SOMBO delivers her speech at the inauguration of the UOM

campus and appreciated the quality of the work.

**Communications Unit/Office of the
President of the Republic**



View of the entrance to the UOM administrative building

Inauguration of the UOM: a new era for Kasai

A date that will remain engraved in the educational history of Greater Kasai. After several decades of waiting, the province of Eastern Kasai has finally acquired a university infrastructure of national significance: the Official University of Mbuji-Mayi (UOM), inaugurated with great pomp and circumstance in the presence of political, academic, and religious authorities.

This ceremony, marked by strong popular

support, symbolizes the rebirth of public higher education in a region that has long been deprived of modern infrastructure since the departure of the Belgian colonial administration.

A strong move by the government in favor of education

The creation and inauguration of the UOM are part of the government's policy to revitalize the education sector. Through the Ministry of

Higher and University Education (ESU), the Congolese government aims to bring the university closer to young people in the center of the country, who are often forced to travel to Kinshasa, Lubumbashi, or Kisangani to continue their studies.

In his opening speech, the government representative emphasized that "knowledge is a nation's greatest asset, and the Official University of Mbuji-Mayi will be the driving force behind the intellectual and economic

development of Kasai.”

Expected impact on university education and local development

The Official University of Mbuji-Mayi is not just an academic institution; it aims to be a center of scientific, cultural, and economic influence.

With faculties in law, economics, social sciences, agronomy, public health, and technology, the UOM aims to train a new generation of local elites capable of meeting the needs of regional and national development.

The establishment of this institution should also stimulate the local economy by creating new direct and indirect jobs, boosting housing and transportation activities, and promoting cultural and scientific exchanges.

The challenges facing higher education in the DRC

However, this inauguration also comes with major challenges.

Congolese higher education faces budgetary shortfalls, a lack of qualified teachers in certain disciplines, and problems with governance and technological modernization.

To meet these challenges, the academic authorities at UOM are relying on strengthened partnerships with other universities in the country and abroad, as well as with private actors, NGOs, and international donors.

A symbol of hope for the youth of Kasai

For the young people of Kasai, this university represents new hope, a promise of a better future in a context where many were forced to emigrate to study.

Several students interviewed at the inauguration expressed their pride and enthusiasm. “We will finally be able to study at home, in good conditions, and participate in the reconstruction of our province,” said a

first-year economics student.

Towards a promising academic future

The Official University of Mbuji-Mayi thus opens a new chapter in the educational and scientific history of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

It embodies the desire of the government and educational stakeholders to make knowledge a lever for social transformation. Its success will depend on the collective ability of authorities, teachers, students, and partners to guarantee the quality, transparency, and sustainability of this noble initiative.

ALAIN S. M. MPOYI/WERC



Félix Antoine TSHISEKEDI to establish a technology hub in the heart of Africa for the DRC by 2030

On Friday, September 27, during the 80th United Nations General Assembly, the President of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Félix Antoine TSHISEKEDI, unveiled his vision for an ambitious digital transformation for the country. Speaking at a side event entitled “DRC Digital Nation 2030,” he announced the mobilization of US\$1 billion from the public treasury to support the development of the digital

sector over the period 2026-2030.

A far-reaching ambition has just been announced. At the start of his speech, delivered at the event entitled “DRC Digital Nation 2030,” Head of State Félix Antoine TSHISEKEDI expressed a clear vision of “making the Democratic Republic of Congo a prosperous digital nation and a technological hub at the heart of Africa by 2030..

National Digital Plan “Horizon 2025

This vision, he explained, marks “a paradigm shift” designed to reap the full benefits of digital technology and to position the DRC, which is rich in rare and critical minerals essential to the digital and energy transitions, as a “catalyst for investment and provider of solutions to the major challenges of our time”. In his speech, President TSHISEKEDI recalled that digital



The President of the Republic posing alongside several members of the government

technology has been a priority on his political agenda since 2019. This has been reflected in the concrete progress made under the "Horizon 2025" National Digital Plan, 57% of whose 69 structuring projects are already operational.

Among the main achievements, he cited "the construction of two Tier 3 datacentres, the arrival of the META Group's 2 AFRICA submarine cable, the deployment of more than 4,000 km of fibre optics, the creation of Silikin Village, the largest entrepreneurial technology hub in Central Africa, and the promulgation, in March 2023, of the Digital Code, a genuine framework of trust for data protection and the fight against cybercrime", reads the press release from the Digital Development Agency (DDA).

Four pillars for sustainable transformation

In his speech, Mr TSHISEKEDI also presented the DRC Digital Nation 2030 programme, based on four strategic pillars. The first concerns infrastructure and connectivity. The aim is to complete a national backbone linking the country's 26 provinces by 2030, to increase the number of data centres and to extend coverage through the Universal Service Fund, in order to connect 25 million Congolese who are still off the grid, according to the same source.

The second pillar focuses on the digitisation of public platforms and services, with

the aim of offering fast, accessible and traceable online services. The third pillar focuses on overhauling curricula and launching a national programme for digital professions, aimed primarily at young people and women. Finally, the fourth pillar focuses on the establishment of a national ecosystem guaranteeing a secure, resilient and trustworthy cyberspace.

A national AI strategy currently being finalized

The Head of State also announced the upcoming finalization of the National Artificial Intelligence Strategy, which will be approved before the end of the year. It will be accompanied by a data governance framework and the creation of an Artificial Intelligence Academy designed to train a new generation of Congolese talent. "We must equip our youth and women with the skills they need to thrive in the knowledge economy," he said.

Strategic partners already on board

The Congolese President welcomed the joint support of the World Bank and the French Development Agency, which are mobilizing more than \$500 million over the period 2025-2029 for digital development and the establishment of public digital infrastructure. This support will be supplemented by US\$1 billion released by the Treasury, confirming the government's commitment to making digital technology

a driver of growth, employment, and inclusion.

In conclusion, the Head of State made a passionate appeal to investors and technical partners. "Accelerating our digital transformation will give rise to a mature, resilient, and sustainable economy. In this way, by 2030, the Democratic Republic of Congo will become a prosperous digital nation and a technological hub at the heart of Africa, driving inclusive and shared digital peace (...) Join us and let's build an open, inclusive, and prosperous digital nation together".

Enock BOLONZA/Cio Magazine



Activities of the Minister of ESURSI

Marie-Thérèse SOMBO officially closes the 2024-2025 academic year in Kikwit

The city of Kikwit, economic capital of Kwilu province, was buzzing this weekend with the official closing of the 2024-2025 academic year, marked by the presence of the Minister of Higher Education, University, Scientific Research, and Innovation (ESURSI), Professor Marie-Thérèse Sombo. For the first time, the head of ESURSI set foot in Kwilu during her visit to the sub-conference of ESU school principals.

A memorable first visit

Minister Marie-Thérèse Sombo received a lavish welcome from the local political and administrative authorities and the university community, who were determined to extend a most welcoming reception. Deeply moved, Professor Dr. Sombo expressed her gratitude for this show of hospitality and solidarity, which, in her view, fully justified the choice of Kikwit to host this national closing ceremony. "My joy is all the greater because the warm welcome extended to me by both the political and administrative authorities and the university community reinforces my decision to hold the official closing of the 2024-2025 academic year here. Your gesture of solidarity touches me deeply. Thank you most sincerely," she declared.



A view of the academic and scientific staff of the UOM

A tribute to the Head of State and the university community

In her address, the Minister also acknowledged the efforts of the Grand Chancellor of Universities and Higher Institutes, the President of the Republic, Félix Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo, whom she described as an example of patriotism. She further commended the commitment of the university community, which, through a united scientific front, distanced itself from the destabilization attempts orchestrated by the M23/AFC rebels, responsible for numerous disruptions during the past academic year.

Towards the opening of the 2025-2026 academic year

Professor Dr. Marie-Thérèse Sombo concluded her speech by announcing that the official opening of the new 2025-2026 academic year will take place in the very near future, expressing her hope that this next session will unfold in a more serene atmosphere conducive to the flourishing of the Congolese academic world.

MAZONO Christian/NSC



Marie-Thérèse Sombo participates in the 69th IAEA Conference in Vienna

La Ministre de l'Enseignement Supérieur, Universitaire, Recherche Scientifique et Innovations, Marie-Thérèse Sombo, a participé à la 69e Conférence de l'Agence Internationale de l'Énergie Atomique (AIEA) à Vienne en Autriche.

During this conference, the Minister affirmed the DRC's commitment to actively participate in the development of nuclear sciences, placing gender equality, research, and innovation at the heart of this ambition, in accordance with the vision of the President of the DRC.

The DRC is committed to the future of nuclear energy

In her address, Marie-Thérèse Sombo praised the relevance of the conference theme: "Promoting Opportunities in Nuclear Energy: A Path to Exclusivity and Gender Equality." According to her, this is a vital issue for the economic, energy, and scientific future of Congo. The head of ESURSI emphasized that her department intends to play a major role in this dynamic by mobilizing academic and scientific institutions around a common cause: making nuclear energy a lever for progress and equity.

Breaking down barriers and opening up STEM pathways

The Minister emphasized the need to act from the outset, when guiding



SE Marie-Thérèse SOMBO à l'esplanade de l'IAEA à Vienne

young Congolese people, particularly young women, who are often excluded from scientific and technical fields. "We must show them role models," she stated, before reiterating her Ministry's commitment to supporting pathways to excellence, encouraging equity in recruitment, and promoting diverse research teams. Through this advocacy, the DRC reaffirms its commitment to building an inclusive and modern knowledge society.

Scientific innovation at the service of national development

Marie-Thérèse Sombo reaffirmed that research and innovation will be encouraged, with a requirement for parity in calls for proposals and evaluation mechanisms. She also emphasized that the DRC's participation in this conference will strengthen international partnerships and prepare for the ratification of several

treaties and agreements favorable to the country's scientific and technological growth.

The DRC's presence at this international conference illustrates the President of the DRC's commitment to making education, research, and innovation pillars of national development. By representing Congo's interests in Vienna, Marie-Thérèse Sombo confirms that the country is ready to invest in civilian nuclear energy, not as an end in itself, but as a tool to serve prosperity, equity, and the future of Congolese youth.

**MAZONO Christian/NSC and Dahlia A/
Hautes Personnalités**



Minister Marie-Thérèse SOMBO visits the ESURSI Institutions

In order to gain a comprehensive understanding of the sector she oversees, the Minister of Higher and University Education, Scientific Research and Innovation, Professor Dr. Marie-Thérèse Sombo, conducted a series of inspection visits to higher education and university institutions as well as research institutions. This initiative aims to listen to the various components of the university community: academic, scientific, union, and student bodies, within their respective institutions.

Minister Marie-Thérèse SOMBO visits the INA

The Minister chose to visit the National Institute of Arts (INA) on August 21, 2025, where the entire community had mobilized to give her an artistic welcome befitting her status.

Upon her arrival, Minister Marie-Thérèse Sombo, herself a professor, was greeted by the INA's management committee, led by the Director General, Professor Félicien Tshimungu Kandolo. She then exchanged greetings with the various well-represented groups, including the unions and the student body. Following these greetings, the Minister

and her delegation enjoyed performances of Rumba songs presented by INA students before delving into the purpose of her visit.

In his welcoming remarks, the Director General of the INA addressed all sectors: academic, research, administrative, and financial. With a managerial approach, he sought and obtained support from the supervisory authority to enhance the INA's national and international profile.

He also welcomed the Minister's visit and thanked her for her interest in training future artists: "We are very happy and honored by the presence of Her Excellency the Minister. This is an opportunity for us to reaffirm our commitment to supporting the Head of State's vision, implemented by our Minister in the higher education sector. This visit also underscores the importance of government support for artistic training institutions like ours," declared the Director General, Professor Félicien TSHIMUNGU, before encouraging his students and teachers: "We are proud of the work accomplished by our students and teachers, and we look forward to continuing

to train the artists of tomorrow."

The Minister then listened to representatives of the unions and the student body. Only before concluding her visit did she have time to discuss matters with the Management Committee, during which she gave clear directives for the future.

Minister Marie-Thérèse SOMBO's visit to the IGC

Four days after the INA, Minister Marie-Thérèse SOMBO also visited the Institute of Geography of Congo (IGC) on August 25, 2025 to learn about the construction work on some of the Institution's buildings and the relocation of its staff offices.

Minister Marie-Thérèse SOMBO receives members of the RCGM Management Committee

After meeting with members of the Research Institutions Management Committee, the President of the National Scientific Council, and the Secretary General of the RSI (Research Institute for Science and Technology) on August 27, 2025, at Research Center for in Human Sciences (CRESH), Professor Marie-Thérèse Sombo received a delegation from Research Center for Geological and Mining (CRGM).

The delegation first congratulated the Minister on the leadership she intends to demonstrate at the head of this Ministry. They also presented an overview of the institution's current situation.

MAZONO Christian/NSC



Minister Marie-Thérèse on a field visit to the INA



Marie-Thérèse SOMBO exchanges views with various senior officials from Research Institutions

The Minister of Higher Education, University, Scientific Research and Innovation, Professor Marie-Thérèse SOMBO, met with the various Heads of Research Institutions on August 27, 2025 in Kinshasa.

During the event, Minister Professor Marie-Thérèse Sombo congratulated all members of the Research Institution Management Committees for accepting her invitation.

Minister Marie-Thérèse Sombo gave them clear instructions for submitting the elements of the joint ESURSI activity planning. According to Professor Marie-Thérèse Sombo, these elements include: the summary document presenting the Research Institution (the decree-law, the ministerial order, the mandate or mission of the centers, the areas of intervention, the updated organizational chart, the infrastructure, equipment, the list of center staff and their names, ranks, functions, and contact information), the existing strategic plan document, the 2025 operational plan, the human and technological capacity building plan, a brief list of the main projects and achievements (publications, patents, innovations, concrete applications), partnerships and networks, and the impact on the community, the socio-economic sector, and/or health. This measure is part of the revitalization of Research Centers and Institutes, the dissemination of effective technical models, and a synergy between scientists and supervisory authorities.

Following the Minister's speech, the President of the National Scientific Council, Professor MPANA TSHIMANKINDA Pius, presented the NSC, the challenges facing the Scientific Research and Innovation sub-sector, and potential solutions. Among the challenges, he listed.

- The non-disbursement of budgetary allocations in favor of Research Institutions and the NSC (subsidies, scientific interventions and investment);
- The lack of mechanization of certain managers and agents in terms of basic salary and institutional bonuses;
- The non-payment of supplementary wages justifies the continued strike in research institutions;
- The lack of real estate infrastructure for most research institutions;
- The lack of laboratories, workshops, libraries, and equipment necessary for research leads to limited research activities, except in a few cases of partnerships established by certain institutions;
- The suspension of scientific journals from research institutions;
- Scientific publications are solely motivated by the needs of promotions and/or appointments and are published even in non-indexed or non-peer-reviewed journals;
- The limited supervision of junior researchers (ASR and ATR) by senior researchers (CR, MR and DR) severely weakens research;
- The shortage of senior researchers results in a ratio of 1/32 or 1/16, contradicting the UNESCO standard which sets it at $\frac{1}{4}$;

The NSC President suggested several possible solutions. These include:

- Continuing to train researchers on writing bankable projects ;
- Diversification of research funding

sources, including public funds, philanthropic partnerships and various sectors (industry, businesses, NGOs, etc.);

- Make NSC-initiated training courses (like those at CPE) mandatory, with a certificate for all researchers;
- Maintain publication of the *Revue Congolaise des Sciences et Technologies* (Congolese Journal of Science and Technology) published by the NSC, which is currently the best indexed journal in the country with more than 14 indexings, including AJOL, DOAJ (soon to be SCOPUS);
- To train staff from the NSC Permanent Secretariat to support certain editorial boards in the production of scientific journals. To date, this team has trained: the journals of ISTM/Kin and ISTM/Kindu, the journal of the Faculty of Science and Technology of Unikin, and others are planned (PADEV, research centers and institutes).
- Apply the ministerial decree establishing the scientific framework that regulates the researcher's scientific workload ;
- To obtain the actual disbursement of the planned budget allocations ;
- Sign performance contracts with the Management Committees to boost the activities of the Centers ;
- To allow the regular promotion of researchers through the signing of pending draft decrees ;
- Obtain the decree institutionalizing the Congolese Scientific Genius Forum (CSGF), which should be held annually at a specific time. ;

- Encourage partnerships with both public and private organizations to support the CSGF;
- Ensure the valorization of research results, inventions and innovations stemming from the CSGF;

The Secretary General of the RSI (Research and Innovation Service), Odon NDAMBU, also presented the challenges facing the Scientific Research and Innovation sub-sector and some potential solutions.

The ceremony concluded on an optimistic note, with the three speakers expressing

a shared commitment to making scientific research and innovation a driving force for development for the Congolese people.

The Minister of Higher Education, Universities, Scientific Research, and Innovation, Professor Marie-Thérèse SOMBO, met on August 28, 2025, with members of the Management Committee of the General Commission for Atomic Energy (GCAE).

During this meeting, Minister Marie-Thérèse SOMBO was accompanied by the President of the National Scientific Council, Professor MPIANA TSHIMANKINDA Pius, and the

Secretary General of the RSI, Odon NDAMBU. Several topics were discussed during this meeting.

MAZONO Christian/NSC



THE WORLD ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

for the advancement of science in developing countries

NSC Activities

The President of the NSC Prof. MPIANA TSHIMANKINDA Pius elected Member of the TWAS

The President of the National Scientific Council (NSC), Professor MPIANA TSHIMANKINDA Pius, was elected on October 8, 2025, as a Fellow of the World Academy of Sciences for the Advancement of Science in Developing Countries (TWAS), effective January 1, 2026.

This prestigious distinction recognizes not only Professor MPIANA TSHIMANKINDA Pius's scientific excellence and remarkable contributions in the fields of chemical and environmental sciences, but also his unwavering commitment to promoting scientific research in the DRC and around the world.

The election of the President of the NSC Council from among the members of this distinguished Academy constitutes international recognition of the dynamism and potential of African research. It marks a significant milestone for the Congolese scientific community, which sees one of



its eminent figures join the select circle of scholars who actively contribute to advancing knowledge in service of sustainable development.

The official induction ceremony will take place during the next TWAS General Conference, the dates and location of which will be announced later. The NSC and the STIB editorial team congratulate Professor MPIANA TSHIMANKINDA Pius on this exemplary achievement, a symbolic testament to excellence, perseverance, and commitment to science and humanity. As a reminder, TWAS was founded in 1983 in Trieste, Italy. It works towards sustainable prosperity through research, education, policy, and diplomacy.

Prof. Jean-Paul KOTE-TE NYWA/NSC and Christian MAZONO/NSC



The NSC is holding its 58th ordinary session in Kinshasa

The National Scientific Council (NSC) held its 58th ordinary session on Wednesday, September 24, 2025, in the "Master José MPANDA" room at CRESH, located at 33 Comité Urbain Street in Gombe township.

The session focused on eleven (11) points, including the reading and adoption of the minutes of the 57th Ordinary Session of the NSC held on July 4, 2025; the summary of decisions and recommendations of the 57th Ordinary



The Permanent Secretary of the NSC, Mr. Johnny KABEYA BAJIKA, reading the minutes of decisions and recommendations during the 58th Session of the NSC

continuation of bus files; the files of associate researchers; the NSC Mutual Fund project; the files concerning the appointments and promotions of staff and managers of Research Centers and Institutes; and miscellaneous items.

During its course, the NSC made decisions and recommendations, in particular

- Members are reminded to submit promotion or nomination files in a bound format, taking care to incorporate all the constituent elements as defined by the NSC (Letter of application for promotion/nomination, Completed NSC identification form, Academic title, etc.);
- Research institutions are reminded to communicate the appointment and promotion criteria to staff for their understanding; these criteria must be posted on notice boards



Prof. Pius Mpiana, President of the NSC

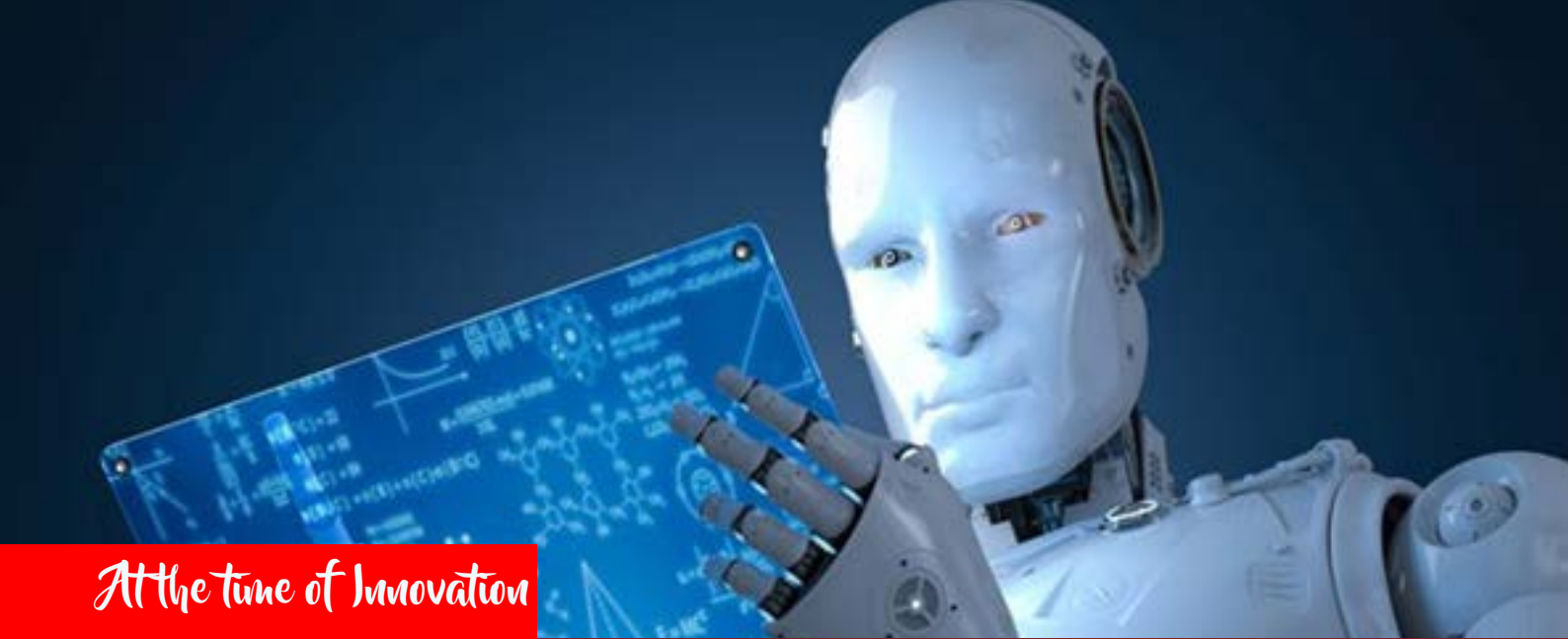
and/or sent to WhatsApp groups;

- Transmission to Research Institutions of the outline of the book "Scientific Research: from its genesis to the present day";
- It is necessary to notify the designated contributors to the draft of the aforementioned document, "Scientific Research: from its origins to the present day".

MAZONO Christian/NSC



Session of the NSC held on July 4, 2025; the operation of Research Institutions during the intersessional period from July to September 2025; the report of the commissions established by the NSC; the adoption of the organizational structures of the Water and Environment Research Center (WERC), the Goma Volcanic Observatory (GVO/Goma), and the Maintenance and Technological Support Service (SEMATECH); the



At the time of Innovation

Congo Tech Pamoja: an online platform to democratize artificial intelligence

At a time when artificial intelligence (AI) is profoundly transforming our societies, an innovative platform, called "Congo Tech Pamoja," has just been created to democratize its use in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in particular, and in Francophone Africa. It is based on an approach combining scientific rigor, open collaboration, and local roots.

Africa, and the DRC in particular, cannot remain a spectator to the digital revolution of artificial intelligence.

This conviction drives a group of young Congolese researchers who have just launched an online platform called "Congo Tech Pamoja" to democratize artificial intelligence. "It is paradoxical to note that the DRC, one of the largest French-speaking countries in Africa, located in the heart of the continent and with a young population, remains behind in terms of technological development, particularly in the field of AI," says Berthine Nyunga, a doctoral student in machine learning at the University of Tübingen and co-founder of this platform.

Making AI accessible to all

Behind this initiative lies a desire to put technology at the service of local development. The platform aims to bring together all artificial intelligence enthusiasts to learn, share, and innovate together. "We have observed the underrepresentation of the Congolese community, and more broadly the Francophone community, at major international AI conferences, research projects, and continent-wide discussions. We need to popularize AI, to train people not only in its use but also in its understanding, in order to adapt it to everyone's specific needs,"

explains Ms. Nyunga.

Another major objective of "Congo Tech Pamoja" is to make artificial intelligence understandable and accessible to non-experts. "As a community composed of both AI experts and non-experts, we address topics ranging from simple to more advanced, adapting them to the different profiles of our audience. This allows everyone to identify with the content and engage with it at their own pace," she emphasizes with determination.

A diverse audience

The platform is still young, but its ambition is already significant. Its target audience is broad, but priority groups have been identified. "We are committed to offering enriching encounters around AI, accessible to all audiences. Our audience is intentionally diverse. It includes professionals, to enable them to optimize their practices through AI; students, to whom we offer targeted support; researchers, whose work we promote; women and children, whom we integrate through specific programs; and finally, Francophones, to strengthen the voice of Francophone Africa in technological debates," the doctoral candidate emphasizes.

For Berthine, it is urgent that Africa stop seeing AI as a privilege of major powers. "Contrary to popular belief, AI is not reserved for major powers. It relies on leveraging local resources: human capital, financial resources, infrastructure, and natural resources." Local training allows solutions to be adapted to African realities and gives Africa the tools to innovate." Despite these ambitions, the environment poses major challenges in the Democratic Republic of Congo, notably the high cost of internet access and low digital

literacy in remote areas. This complicates the implementation of an initiative aimed at democratizing artificial intelligence in the DRC and, more broadly, in Francophone Africa. However, the young researcher and her team have no shortage of strategies to overcome these obstacles. As proof, the platform plans to launch its first training programs. "We aspire to become the leading AI hub in Congo and Africa. We want to offer high-quality training, strengthen our network of experts, and promote a responsible and inclusive AI culture for sustainable change," says Ms. Nyunga.

A social and scientific platform

What distinguishes "CongoTech Pamoja" is its very structure. It is first and foremost an online platform, a scientific social network designed to democratize artificial intelligence for the general public. Inspired by Facebook and LinkedIn, the platform offers intuitive navigation, thematic groups, the publication of specialized or popularized content, and interactions between researchers, students, enthusiasts, and the simply curious.

Cio Magazine

PUBLIC-SECTOR RESEARCH CENTERS AND INSTITUTES IN THE D.R. CONGO

RIHS (Research Institute in Health Science) Objective: To improve the state of health of the population through research in the following fields: pharmaceutical, medical, anthropological, psychological or socio-cultural. Address: 9, Av. Lukusa C/Gombe; E-mail: dnyembo@gmail.com; Tel: 0824580211	SSRC (Social Science Research Center / Bandunduville) Objective: to carry out practical scientific research into major socio-economic and cultural issues. To promote sustainable aquatic development. Address: 29, Av. de la mission, Q/Salongo, C/Basoko. BANDUNDUVILLE, BP. 223; E-mail: akuzituka@gmail.com; Tel: 0815898971
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RGHS (Research Center in Human Sciences) Objective: To ensure the human development of the Congolese people through the study of its social, economic and political dimensions with a view to identifying the factors that have a positive or negative influence on its development. Address: 33, Av. comité urbain C/ Gombe; E-mail: mingashang@yahoo.fr; Tel: 0819377821	NDRC (Nutritional Diseases Research Center/Gemena) Objective: Research into diseases linked to malnutrition, such as related diseases by isolating certain molecules, such as SYZYSIUM GUINSEIE to combat amoebic yeasts and diarrhea in South Ubangi. Address: Mobutu n° 220/A. GEMENA/ SOUTH UBANGI PROVINCE; E-mail: cherusangi@yahoo.fr; 0992416091
RCMT (Research Center in Mathematics Teaching) Objective: To carry out research in the field of mathematics teaching with a view to improving quality. Address: 84, Av. des Ambassadeurs C/ Gombe; E-mail: mabelamatendorostin@gmail.com; Tel: 0815031877	NSRC (Natural Sciences Research Center /Lwiro) Objective: To carry out, promote and coordinate research in the fields of science, technology and industry throughout the DRC. Address: LWIRO LWIRO , TERRITORY OF KABARE/SUD KIVU; E-mail: robert.kasisi@umontreal.com; Tel: 0996806699.
GRC (Geophysical Research Center) Objective: To provide the country with a national geophysical observation network, for the global study of the internal behavior of the earth in the DRC. Address: 44, Av. de la démocratie, C/ Gombe(within GMRC); E-mail:tondozi@gmail.com; Tel: 0854426228	MDRC (Multidisciplinary Development Research Center /Bunia) Objective: To carry out operational research in the north-east of the DRC in the fields of applied linguistics, African cultures and applied sciences. Study of nature, fauna, flora and protection of endangered species. Address: BUNIA/ITURI; E-mail: Kermwathomas@gmail.com; Tel: 0997717070
AIPS (African Institute of Prospective Studies) Objective: To carry out forward-looking studies in order to propose solutions to crises and problems linked to the evolution of African societies. Address: Av. Cardinal Malula, C/ Lemba; E-mail: mgrtarcibangu@yahoo.fr; Tel: 0996658741	HRC (Hydrobiology Research Center in Uvira) Objective: To program, coordinate and monitor research activities in hydrobiology, limnology and hydrology. hydrobiology, limnology and fisheries in all ecosystems. Address: 115, AV. du Congo, Q/Kimanga, C/Kalundu, UVIRA / SUD KIVU; E-mail: bida-kamuhaza@gmail.com; Tel: 0997716307.
MDRC (Multidisciplinary Development Research Center/Matadi) Objective: To carry out operational research in central Congo in the field of applied linguistics of African cultures and applied sciences Address: Hôtel de la porte Matadi; E-mail: Mwanzanicolas5@gmail.com; Tel: 0815037949	CBRNEC (Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Excellence Center) Objective: To contribute to the mitigation of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear risks. Address: 106, Blvd du 30 Juin, C/Gombe; E-mail: coe.cbrn.rdc@gmail.com; Tel: 0817742543.
NCPIR (National Committee for the Protection of ionizing Radiation) Objective: - Regulatory authority for protection against the dangers of ionizing radiation in the DRC management of radioactive sources of radioactive materials such as uranium. Address: 4675, Av. Colonel Ebeya, Immeuble Quitus 2ème niveau; Email: Flory1963@gmail.com; Tel: 0816684665	GVO (Goma Volcanological Observatory) Objective: Prevention of volcanic risks by monitoring volcanoes and Lake Kivu. Kivu; Management of natural risks; scientific research. Address: 142, Avenue Du Rond Point ; Quartier Les Volcans ; Commune de Goma ; Ville Goma; North-Kivu; E-mail: mavotulu@gmail.com; Tel: 0998584734
AEC (French Atomic Energy Commission) Objective: To carry out, promote and coordinate scientific and technical research in various fields of science and industry, concerning the use of atomic energy and space research. Address: UNIKIN building; E-mail: Steve.muanza.kamunga@gmail.com; Tel: 0808643248.	WERC (Water and Environment Research Center) Objective: To serve as a training and research center focusing on water and environmental management. To propose solutions to problems that could arise around water. Create a national network of Congolese scientists and researchers to analyze and disseminate information on the impact of climate change in the DRC. Promote education and the right to the environment. Address: 44, Comité Urbain C/ GOMBE; E-mail: ngelipatience@gmail.com; Tel: 0818105625.
CGI (Congo Geographic Institute) Objective: Production of the base map of the DRC at a scale of 1/50,000 and its derivatives. Address: 106, Blvd du 30 Juin, C/Gombe; E-mail: Fidele.balibuno@unikin.ac.cd; Tel: 0974449240.	RCSARP (Research Center for the Selection and Adaptation of Ruminants and Pigs) Objective: To carry out studies and research in the field of ruminant and pig breeding Address: 45, Av. Lumumba, Q/de la gare, LUPUTA/ KASAI-ORIENTAL; E-mail: tshamalagabriel@gmail.com; Tel: 0851817370
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NIASR (National Institute for Agronomic Study and Research) Objective: To promote the development of agriculture in the Congo. To maintain varieties, multi-local trials, and its farmers, management and conservation of germplasm. Set up a program to monitor and evaluate research activities. To disseminate new varieties. Give the emerging technical department its reason for being, with a view to producing basic and pre-basic seed. Resume publication of the agricultural magazine to disseminate research results. Address: 13, Av. des Cliniques, BP :2037 KINSHASA, C/Gombe; E-mail: domikankonde@yahoo.fr; Tel: 0818248620	CAS (Congolese Academy of Sciences) Objective: Promotion and dissemination of science, technology, arts and letters. Support for inventive initiatives. Address: Sciences Faculty/ UNIKIN local 28; E-mail: jlmuyembet@gmail.com; Tel: 0813330242
RCALC (Research Center into African Language and Culture) Objective: To coordinate and carry out all research projects concerning African languages and cultures. Address: 53 C, Av. Makiso, blvd du 30 juin, Kisangani/ Tshopo. Tel: 0851934320	MIPRC (Matadi Interdisciplinary Pedagogical Research Center) Objective:--Information science. Address: The buildings of the Matadi Higher Pedagogical Institute; Tel: 0896501462
AFRC (Agro-Food Research Centre/Lubumbashi) Objective: To identify processes for processing and preserving basic local agricultural products. To improve the quality of imported or locally produced foodstuffs by applying approved standards and quality control. Help the technological development of the existing agro-industry by providing them with technical assistance wherever possible. Address: 1, Av. Président ILEO, Q/CRAA, C/Lubumbashi; E-mail: Julesnkulu@gmail.com; Tel: 0997131002	

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In accordance with article 24 of Ordinance-Law n°82-040 of 5 November 1982 on the organization of scientific and technical research, the National Scientific Council is responsible for:

1. to deliberate on the guidelines and priorities of the scientific and technological research plans and programs to be carried out in the country ;
2. to deliberate on the allocation of resources from the State budget to scientific and technological activities;
3. supervising the financial management of research centers and institutes
4. approving the budgets of the Research Institutes and Centers and submitting them to the Minister for Scientific Research for approval
5. approving the organic regulations of the Research Institutes and Centers;
6. proposing to the Minister for Scientific Research the appointment and promotion of scientific and administrative personnel.

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